

State
Columbia, SC
Circ. 119127
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5/5/2007
67012



135 S.C. group honors efforts to aid seniors

A Lowman Home resident and employee have been recognized for their efforts to improve the quality of life of the aging.



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The South Carolina Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging has named **Marjorie Howarth** one of its top volunteers and **Mary Ruth Sims** as the certified nursing supervisor of the year.

The two from the Ballentine seniors facility were among many recognized during the association's annual conference in Savannah last month.

Howarth moved to the Lowman Home's independent apartments in 2002. Since then, she has volunteered at the front desk answering phones, providing tours of the facility, assisting residents with questions and performing a variety of other clerical duties. In all, Howarth has logged nearly 2,000 volunteer hours.

Sims first came to work at the Lowman Home in 1962.

She recalls her earliest duties at the home included everything from shelling peas and frying

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chicken to assisting residents and cleaning rooms.

"No one had specific job descriptions," she said. "If it needed doing, folks just pitched in and got it done."

Sims' co-workers describe her as the ultimate caregiver.

"When I think of someone who has the heart of a caregiver, Mary Ruth is the first person to come to mind," said **Dot Nivens**, a registered nurse who has worked with Sims for 30 years.

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Volunteers are needed for the 15th annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

This year's drive is May 12. Postal workers will collect food donations from mail customers to help stock the shelves at food pantries across the country. Food collected locally will support Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Community members are needed between 1 and 5 p.m. May 12 to help collect and sort donated items at select post office locations. The post offices include Assembly Street in Columbia, Harbison, Dutch Fork, Northeast, Edgewood, Forest Acres and Sandhills.

Interested volunteers should call **Peg Mead** at (803) 254-4432 ext. 115.